

THE BELLOWS

31 GREAT YEAR

November 19, 2009

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXXI No. 3

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South...Turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, November 19th 7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:00 p.m.)
WHY	A short business meeting...Show & Tell..Earn That Camera presentation..Member's trade & sell tables (please cover during business meeting.) Auction (one item lot per member) Door Prize. <u>Program:</u> Bring your favorite post 1940 camera or other photographic item to show and share. A favorite shooter...a rare example...a fun find...an interesting photo...a darkroom oddity.

NOVEMBER...TIME TO PAY YOUR 2010 PSPCS DUES:

Yes, friends. It is that time of year. The time of year when you pay, or send to Shirley, your \$20.00 PSPCS dues for the coming year. We know that \$20.00 is a small amount for such a enjoyable organization as PSPCS; but we want you to have money left to buy the photographic treasures you will find during the year.

So, what do you receive for this small payment of \$20.00? You get to attend ten meetings. At these meetings you have the pleasant fellowship of your fellow members, trade and sell tables where you can either sell--buy, or both. You get free nummies to sip and munch during a lively meeting. You get an auction with many different items for sale during the year. (We know of one member who has more that tripled his profits by selling his won auction items on the internet. The old buy low...sell higher trick.)

Then there is our annual catered Christmas dinner party and gift exchange which takes place at our December meeting. In the spring (The weekend of April 29-30 & May 1st in 2010) we have our Show Experience Weekend with our annual Show and guest speaker.

If you live out of the area and can not attend our monthly meetings you will still receive our newsletter, The Bellows, ten times during the year. Also, you will receive first notice of our upcoming Show so you can get your table request(s) in early.

All of the above is yours for the very low figure of only \$20.00 per year. With your dues we will be able to continue PSPCS Club activities and Newsletter. Without your dues support our Club will slowly "wither on the vine"! Please take a moment and send your check for \$20.00 to Treasurer Shirley..300 Pease Road..Cle Elum, Wa. 98922...or pay her in person at our meeting.

If you forgot to pay for 2009 just do not forget to pay for 2010. A really enjoyable Club is a horrible thing to waste!!! Thank You!

THIS MONTHS MYSTERY QUESTION:

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society

What camera snaps onto a film cartridge and straps onto a wrist?

★ ★ ★ BACKSIDE INFORMATION ★ ★ ★

The October 15th meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society was called to order by Club Vice President Bill Kimber at 7:07 p.m. Bill reported that president Mike Immel was not feeling well. There were 25 members and guests in attendance. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Shirley reported we were still in the black but that it was time for 2010 dues to be paid.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bill Kimber passed around a 2010 Show Committee sign-up sheet. The first committee meeting will be at Bill's home on November 11th.

Maxine Nagel was drawn for the November Earn that Camera presentation. Her surprise camera was a #2 Cartridge Hawkeye with part of it's box. There was no member feedback on the Everett event as no one had gone to it.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Gary had a flyer for a new Show in Vancouver B.C. in October hosted by Kenji. They hope to have 30 to 40 tables. Bill Adams and Gary announced they will be in Tucson for their Show on October 25th. There were still tables available.

SHOW & TELL:

Gene R. showed a Zenobia circa 1955-1957...John Madsen displayed a Kodak folder and was happy to find out it's McKowen value. He also had a Fujica and another camera...Bill Kimber reported that on a three day "treasurer hunting trip" around the Northwest he had hit 17 Antique Malls etc. and only found one over priced HIT Camera.

PROGRAM: (PRE 1940 favorite etc. camera)

Darrel W. showed a very nice Olympus 6, a nice 6x4.5 with read bellows with dual size insert made between 1936-1938...Bill K. showed a nice wooden school camera not found in McKewon's. It took sequential strips of individual students on a large roll of film (about 10 inches wide) that was rolled from top to bottom while the camera lense shifted left to right. The camera was marked Thompson Camera Co. California. Any new information on this interesting camera would be appreciated...Bill A. showed an Argus A he had gotten as a remembrance from the estate of his good friend, and first PSPCS president, Dave Studebaker.

AUCTION AND DOOR PRIZE:

Six items lots were put up for auction three sold for a total of \$71.00 three lots did not sell. The door prize, donated by Gary, as won by Bill Durlinger.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. for more nummie munching, selling and conversation(s).



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to Bill Kimber, 1413 Weathervane Drive, Tacoma, WA 98466-5712, (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is www.pspcs.org

Dues are \$20.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922, (509) 674-1916, sesparrow9@msn.com P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our yearly April show.

President: Mike Immel (206) 856-7722 shutt64@yahoo.com

The following is from the October 2009 newsletter of the Western Photographic Historical Society and is used with thanks. Ed.

The Last Pseudo Argus 35mm

By Ron Kuykendall

Every time I'd scan eBay for certain items I'd come across IT. The big gaudy plastic piece of junk, black and silver, bug-eyed, with a large ARGUS across the front obviously not ARGUS, but with an ARGUS INC, Howard Street, Chicago address. Cosina held the ARGUS name at one time and later Concord of China. This camera states made in China. Usually priced in the 50-100 plus range, this jewel was listed at \$19.99. The sellers address was my old hometown in Indiana. It won't hurt I told myself. Bid 19.99 and someone else will outbid me if it's a good deal.

The camera arrived within the promised 4-5 days in a large box. Remove the shipping wrap and there was



a beautifully printed black-blue-light brown container with a sun yellow blazing arc across the front. ARGUS 1100 Howard Street, Chicago-made in China (in English and Spanish). Somewhere I saw a date of was it 2000? One of the batteries had failed; I had to locate another. I checked the given website which markets four Argus digitals –service, manuals available. Claims to be Argus Inc-IRC- beginning 1936-info on Argus A and the C-3, and WWII military production. Quotes from Fortune magazine: “most trusted name in photography” and “Argus took photography from an elite hobby to a national pastime.” My just purchased BBC-1000 was not on the website; maybe 2006 was about right.

The camera itself is large and bulky –reminds me of those children's cameras with exaggerated knobs and lens. Right hand grips a large battery-motor compartment/molded handgrip with a large fire button

on top. There is a large rotary on-off dial with rewind, a large red LED red-eye reduction / self timer warning lamp. Center of the camera is all business: waist level reflex viewer over the lens, large eye level finder with reflective gold frame lines with parallax, a hot shoe just above, and a huge lens (more than 2") with a lens cap but no filter thread. There is a self timer at the base of the lens, a non-functional lens lock release button, and a tripod socket below. A huge silver focus ring is full of surprises: the lens barrel zooms forward like a macro, but wait, numbers on top of the barrel read 6.3-8-11-16 with exposure symbols, wow. Control of the two square aperture blades controls the zoom of the lens hood. The lens does nothing. At the front of the lens barrel is a very large “OPTICAL LENS” of celluloid. Deep behind that is what looks like a meniscus lens –the molded plastic kind that Kodak pioneered. There is only instant speed, and the image appears to be permanently out of focus like some box cameras. Upon doing what little testing can be done visually, the lens itself appears to be reasonably sharp-probably one of the rather thick molded plastic elements of the 90's that were designed achromats and used in all the just above- premium level point and shoots. I've tested them before and found they approached the sharpness of the cheap anastigmats of the 30's and 40's. These lenses were usually in the 6.3 range while meniscus lens were in the 11-8-7.7 etc range.

The camera reminded me of the p&s fake SLRs that were sold door to door a number of years ago- the same “OPTICAL LENS” but a much cruder camera with minimal features. The best part of this photographers dream camera was the flash unit.

A hand grip type with tripod mount to balance the weight- adjustable mount to the cameras tripod socket, hot shoe attachment, test button, ready light, on switch, flash head that tilts 90 and rotates 90 with a focused beam-w/a, normal, tele adjustment-1.2 to 7 meters. Flash and camera have captive battery compartment doors that can't fall out and instruction tables for use. Neck strap is provided. Instead of a camera case, there is a gorgeous black/light brown/red camera bag that the camera, flash, and strap fit into, ready to take those once in a life time pictures in a moment.

The top and bottom were both attached with small screws (the base would not remove); the tripod socket may be cemented. Top removal was easy and revealing. Expected “camera” mechanisms were all replaced by plastic and circuit boards –a film frame ratchet assembly the only dinosaur. Except for wiring,

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continued from page 3.

the only metal observable was the flash shoe. Yet the camera is beautifully designed and manufactured with great attention to details; I wish other items purchased were similar.

References:

Argomania-Gambino

The camera and included items

My own collection of items and notes and of course the internet

If you have any information or comments I would welcome your emails at: <rlkuykens@Comcast.net> or to the Western Photographic Historical Society website: <WPHSOCIETY.ORG>.

The following is from the March 2009 newsletter of the Western Photographic Historical Society and is used with thanks. Ed.

The Tube Camera Phenomena

by Ron Kuykendall

There probably has always been a desire among camera designers to replace the flexible leather lens bellows used to make the camera more compact. Some early variations of the box camera were a box within a box, allowing the camera to be focused as well as collapsed for storage. Later there was a Bakelite camera with a spiral lens tube that allowed focus and storage—the English Wembley Sports. The Zenith 127 boasted a slide-out lens tube that focused a meniscus lens to two feet. And of course there was the Argus A series—a sliding metal lens tube.

In Europe in the 1950's when thin Russian leather for bellows was both scarce and expensive, several camera makers developed steel lens tubes that pulled out to place the lens in focusing position—for the popular 6x6/120 film market. Some used the same body as the bellows version, some used a spiral spring to propel the lens outward and lock it in position.

First was probably the Braun Paxina about 1950/51, based on Braun's "Pax" camera designs. The Pax had a square metal pull out lens tube—very similar to the Beacon. Both were little more than box cameras. The improved version of the Paxina had a round lens tube on a modified body. The top of the line version beginning in 1951 had a Steiner 2.9 triplet and a Prontor SVS shutter. Vrededorch followed in 1952 with the Nordina—a very similar camera with the same Steiner 2.9/Prontor SVS combination. Dacora joined the party in 54 with the Digna - Enna Correlar 2.9 and Pronto. Braun topped the market with the Gloria—a Paxina with a coupled split image rangefinder. The Steiner 2.9 became a Steiner Praxar 2.9 or a Steinheil Proxanar 2.9.

By 1955 other manufacturers had marketed their versions—Eumig of movie fame offered an Eumigetta with a very good 5.6 movie style triplet in front of the B-I shutter, Goldammer offered a Goldeck with the Steiner 2.9/Pronto combination. Balda—a Baldexette with a doublet and B-I shutter and Durst—a Duplox with an achromat lens.

I assume the simpler lenses indicate that there was a lot of competition for this corner of the camera market. Most of the cameras were marketed in multiple versions—simpler (3.5-4.5-8) lenses on the same body. The most expensive was probably the Braun Gloria at about \$50.00 in 1957. Only Universal with the Meteor and Beacon with a square lens tube emerged in the U S market. The only Japanese I found was the rather simple Koroll.

All were styled like 35mm cameras, a little larger than the Yashica/Canon style 35's of the next decade—handled well, and with the better lenses—Steiner 2.9, capable of very sharp 6x6 slides. All the lenses were front element focus, shutters were lever set—some with a red dot visible in the viewfinder to warn that the shutter was cocked—some had body release. None had double exposure prevention, all used the traditional red window film advance. The Steiner/Steinheil/Enna 2.9 triplet was in a huge-at-the-time 42mm mount with the large first element protruding.

All a little large for the pocket, they all make convenient, comfortable neckstrap cameras to take to a car show or say a park, to make those impressive 6x6 Fuji slides of scenes you don't want to forget. The 75-80mm lenses with 3.5ft close up focus make a fair snapshot/portrait camera especially with a diffusion filter for the glamour images of your better half. Don't be surprised to receive some public attention for using "that antique camera" in a public place.

References

McKown

Lind's List

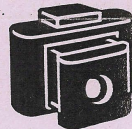
Kahlau's 6x6 TLR

eBay auctions

Various Internet sources

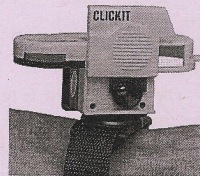
Personal notes and collection

If you have any information, comments, whatever—I would welcome your emails at <rlkuykens@comcast.net> or to Western Photographic Historical Society website—<WPHSOCIETY.ORG>.



So What camera snaps onto a film cartridge and straps to a wrist?

Answer: Destech Inc. made the Clickit Sports 110 camera in 1988. It has a sliding lens cover and a detachable wriststrap. — McKown



Photos courtesy McKown